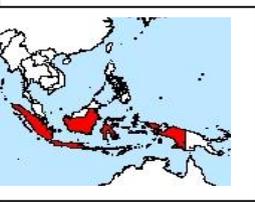


Towards more sustainable use of water

<p>Central America El Salvador</p> 	<p>Africa Ethiopia</p> 	<p>Southeast Asia Indonesia</p> 	<p>Funded by U.S. Government (U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development)</p> <p>Target countries El Salvador, Ethiopia and Indonesia</p> <p>Duration of the project 2004–2006, 18 months</p> <p>Total budget 997,000 USD</p>
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“In Ethiopia, a comprehensive strategy for improved water resources development and management is already in place,” says Tesfaya WoldeMiheret, coordinator of the water planning process in the government, “and it provides the road map to action.” The big question for Ethiopia now is how to implement the strategy, especially at the grass roots level. “The added value of joining the GWP partnership,” emphasizes WoldeMiheret, “is to help bring the various stakeholders in the country together for information exchange on implementation processes and also, for exchanging experiences with people in other countries who are facing similar challenges.”

Ethiopia is one of three countries being supported through the project funded by the U.S. Government (U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development). El Salvador and Indonesia are the other two countries included in the project. The funds are being channeled through the Global Water Partnership.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 confirmed the importance of water and its critical relationship to other development issues that underlie efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. A key target agreed at the Conference was for countries to prepare:

National integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005.

More sustainable water resources development and management requires a multidisciplinary approach as well as coordinated actions at different levels. The management of water resources and water services delivery takes place through the action of institutions and individuals, and depends heavily on their capacities. Within this framework the United States has provided funding, through the Global Water Partnership, to El Salvador, Ethiopia and Indonesia to facilitate their efforts towards meeting the water target set by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (see box) and in the longer term, the Millennium Development Goals.

The grant provides financing to support one locally prepared proposal in each of the three target countries. Although the specific outputs of the project are different in each country, they all fall under the umbrella of the national integrated water resources management planning process: ranging from awareness raising and capacity building, to water policy reform and piloting the practical application of more sustainable approaches to water resource development, management and use at grass roots level for demonstration and future scaling-up.

Along with more sustainable development and management of water resources, the support provided will encourage greater government engagement with the stakeholders at all levels - private sector, NGOs, civil society, community groups and others - to develop specific activities that address the priority needs of these countries.

